A target of setting up of 66,000 family type bio-gas plants has been allocated to States and Union Territories for 2005-06.

Basic safety and comfort standards for buses

*92. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a law to ensure that buses meet the minimum safety and comfort standards before they are given permits to operate;

(b) if so, the other salient features of this proposal;

(c) by when this proposal would be put in operation; and

(d) the steps taken to safeguard the interests of small scale manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BALU): (a) The Central Government has already formulated a Code of Practice for Bus Body Design and Approval to ensure uniformity in bus body building for providing passenger safety and comfort. The standards for testing and approval for body building of buses has also been notified in the Gazette on 16.09.2005.

(b) The salient features of the Code of Practice for Bus Body Design and Approval are:

- Categorization of buses based on the seating capacity and on minimum comfort levels and the type of operation.
- Various safety related features lake entry/exit door, emergency exits, window frames, their locations dimensions and designs.
- Standardization of the floor level height, gangways and dimensions of the foot steps.
- Dimension of seats, seating layout and illumination.
- Driver's workplace requirements.
- Methodology for the calculation of the standing and seating capacity for the passengers.
- Provisions for the persons with disabilities.

- Stability and strength evaluation of the bus body structure, seat anchorages, etc. including the roll over test for the full body.

(c) The Code of Practice for Bus Body Design and Approval will come into force after a system of accredition of bus body builders is established.

(d) Bus body builders will be accredited under five categories on the basis of the activities undertaken by them. The lowest category of builders will be required to have only basic assembling and finishing facilities to protect the interests of small scale manufacturers.

Shortage of Scientists of International Standards in the country

*93. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of brilliant scientists of international standards in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to check the trend of scientists going abroad;

(d) whether Government have formulated any scheme to encourage scientists to pursue research in the areas of their choice without any constraints in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) India has produced many brilliant scientists of international standard. However, considering the goals and ambitions of our country in transforming ourselves into a developed nation by the year 2020, there is a need for a larger number of brilliant scientists.

Currently, the r}umber of scientists engaged in active research in India is 120 per million as compared to 2691 for U.K. However, any comparison of these numbers and conclusion drawn will be unrealistic in view of the resources and infrastructure available in developing and developed nations.

(c) In view of the global nature of the scientific enterprise, the Government is of the view that scientific mobility should not be disturbed. The scientists move overseas for various reasons including better